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# Finding a solution for strays

**Chad Ingram**  
Staff reporter

"There's no such thing as a free kitten," says Keith Stata.

Stata, well known as the owner of Kinmount's Highlands Cinemas, is seated on a couch in his living room.

To his left, a fluffy black cat, Bam Bam, enjoys a backrub. Bam Bam, as Stata explains, was dropped at a hunting camp, somehow survived his way through a winter, was found in the spring and eventually wound up with the theatre owner.

"He looked like someone from Auschwitz," Stata says.

Bam Bam is one of 27 abandoned and feral cats Stata houses on his property.

His disdain for those who give cats away to whomever may come in off the street is equal to his disdain for those who later abandon their pets, leaving them to starve and freeze to death.

Perhaps after having a few litters of kittens first.

"If you can't afford to spay and neuter, how are you going to afford to look after this cat when it gets sick?" Stata says. "My mother taught me, this is something that's a commitment for the entire life of this animal. That's the responsibility you take when you get a pet."

Some of the cats Stata has adopted over the years roam through his home, which is

see FERAL page 4

## Joy to the World

Archie Stouffer Elementary School music teacher Thom Williams plays piano during the school's annual Christmas concert on Dec. 18. Chad Ingram Staff



## Community kicks in after fundraiser cancellation

**Darren Lum**  
Staff reporter

Local high school music students are the benefactors of the community's generosity and the Christmas spirit.

When the word got out that the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Fruit Fundraiser Campaign for the school's music

band fund was being cancelled the community stepped up with \$1,450 so that bands could attend events and scholarships could be awarded.

For more than 20 years this campaign has helped the HHSS music program send students to music festivals, and fund scholarships valued close to \$400. This cancellation is the first time the fundraiser was not going to run.

It was going to raise close to \$800 from pre-shipment sales.

HHSS music teacher Melissa Stephens is blown away by the generosity and bolsters her strong feelings about the support the community gives.

"It's amazing. It's crazy," she said. "It's a very, very giving community."

see WET page 8

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# Paramedicine program launches in 2015

**Chad Ingram**  
Staff reporter

A community paramedicine program for Haliburton County will start up in the new year.

Last March, the county applied to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for funding for the program, which will see specially trained paramedics conduct home visits for high-need patients.

While it was less than requested, the county received approval for \$85,000 of funding in August and recently emergency services director Craig Jones met with reps from the Haliburton Family Health Team to identify individuals in need of the service.

"They identified five or 10 people right out the gates," Jones told county councillors at a Dec. 17 meeting. He said identifying the program's cohort is the first step and that there is only enough funding to help a few. "Who are we helping out first?"

The focus will be on elderly and isolated patients, the living conditions of whom are familiar to some of the county's paramedics.

"They see all the unwashed dishes, the spoiling food . . . the meds are all over the place," Jones said.

The paramedics involved in the program will receive special geriatric training to help them facilitate at-home visits that will include checking blood pressure and ensuring patients are taking their meds.

This will help reduce the need to make trips to the doctor.

Patients have to consent to the visitation. "Given our demographic, it's likely the program will be oversubscribed immediately," said Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt, asking what would determine who received care.

Jones said candidates would ultimately be screened by him, with suggestions coming from local physicians.

Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Danielsen wondered if along with elderly, the program might serve people with disabilities.

Jones, emphasizing the amount of funding only facilitating looking after a few people, said the focus for now would be older patients.

"These are our most vulnerable people," he said.

Councillors expressed some concern about funding the program in the future if money from the province was discontinued.

"Once you get things in place, it's very hard to withdraw them later," Moffatt said.

Jones hopes to commence at-home visits by the end of January.

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## Less strife on Rail Trail

**Chad Ingram**  
Staff reporter

Conflicts on the Haliburton County Rail Trail seemed to have died down.

Back in 2012, Haliburton County paid \$10,000 to hire a community planner to conduct a public input process and compile a report with recommendations for the Haliburton County Rail Trail.

For years, the corridor had been a source controversy, with tension between advocates of motorized and non-motorized use, as well as abutting property owners.

The report provided numerous recommendations, including freezing existing uses on the trail, at least until other components of the report had been addressed.

The Rail Trail remains a multi-use space, its oversight falling under the auspices of the county roads department.

At a Dec. 17 county council meeting, roads director Doug Ray presented councillors with an update report.

"Conflicts between motorized and non-motorized uses that were an issue prior to the public consultation are no longer being reported and are assumed not to be an issue

presently," the report read. "No other uses have been permitted. Under special permit the annual Rail Trail enduro event continues to be held in September."

ATVs have been permitted on the trail beginning May 1 – pending conditions – through the end of October. Snowmobiles are permitted during the wintertime.

The annual Corduroy Enduro is the only time two-wheeled motorized vehicles are permitted on the corridor.

These motorized uses are in addition to pedestrian uses, including bicycles.

Another recommendation from the 2012 report had been to investigate whether motorized traffic would be diverted onto nearby Crown land.

Ray told councillors the province rebuked that idea.

"Not an option, at this point," he said.

A call log concerning the Rail Trail has also been set up, but is typically empty when it comes up for council's review.

Bylaw officer James Rogers told council he'd been called to zero incidents on the trail.

The county section of the Rail Trail stretches approximately 34 kilometres, from Kinmount to Haliburton Village.

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# County reserves getting low

**Chad Ingram**  
Staff reporter

Haliburton County's reserve funds are getting low.

While in 2008, the municipality had more than \$5 million saved up in reserve funds, it's starting 2015 with less than \$3 million.

"We have no plan in place to increase them," treasurer Laura Janke told county council during a budget overview on Dec. 17, adding she wanted to see reserves "get back to a healthy place."

Janke told the paper that auditors will indicate an ideal situation is to have an amount equivalent to a year's tax levy in the bank, but that an acceptable level would be half a year's levy.

In the case of Haliburton County, half a year's levy would amount to approximately \$6.5 million.

The municipality has drawn on reserves in recent years as council sought to limit property tax increases – last year's county tax increase was two per cent.

Simultaneously, it's seen reduced funding from the province, not just in the availability of grants, but also through lessened equalization payments from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund.

That funding will drop by another \$136,000 this year, but the county has seen a decrease of more than \$3 million in the past decade.

While the upper tier has been debt-free for the past few years, it will take on debt in the upcoming year to fund its new EMS base, under construction along Highway 35 in Minden.

How much debt the county will take on is not clear. The base, scheduled to be operational in early spring, will cost approximately \$1.2 million, but the county plans to sell at least one of two remaining portions of the former Walker's Auto Repair property.

Minden Hills has intentions to purchase one portion for the construction of a new fire hall and Reeve Brent Devolin told his county council colleagues the property discussion is going to be part of Minden Hills budget deliberations.

The county has already put more than \$700,000 into the project, including purchasing the property in 2010 and extending the Minden Hills water and sewer systems to the site.

County councillors will hear draft budgets from department heads – which Janke said contain "realistic requests and in some cases, enhanced services" – during Jan. 14 committee meetings.

The county also has considerable work to do on some of its aging assets.

Haliburton County has about \$90 million in assets, the vast portion of that, some \$75.6 million, comprised of its roads. Structures – mostly bridges – are valued around \$4.1 million, buildings about \$5.7 million – not including the new EMS base – and its vehicle fleet approximately \$4.4 million.

While half of the county's bridges are rated as being in good condition, 28 per cent are rated fair and 22 per cent are rated poor.

While 71 per cent of its culverts are rated good, four per cent are fair and 25 per cent are in poor condition. "We aren't terrible, but we are sitting bad enough," roads director Doug Ray said.

The Head Lake bridge in Haliburton Village requires more than \$1.2 million worth of work and has for years, while it was bought up at the meeting that the bridge at Dark Lake will need \$220,000 to repair pillars.

"They're starting to really show that we haven't been paying attention to them," Ray said. "The last four years, diddly squat done."

The county has applied for a grant for partial funding of the Head Lake bridge, which has cracked pier caps and eroding piles, among other ailments.

If the county is successful in the grant application, the \$530,000 currently in its bridge reserves will go toward the project.

Staff expect to hear in February whether the application is successful.

## GAIN team to help frail elderly

**Jenn Watt**  
Editor

A new health-care initiative to support frail seniors is coming to Haliburton County through Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

The Local Health Integration Network for the Central East region approved a plan to establish a GAIN team for Haliburton at their Dec. 17 board meeting.

"A GAIN team is a geriatric assessment and intervention network team," explained Katie Cronin-Wood, communications lead for the Central East

LHIN.

"That's where you put together a group of health-care providers who are focused on meeting the needs of the frail elderly."

The idea is to provide a wide range of specialists – anyone from a geriatrician to a dietitian – to assess and assist frail seniors with their health-care needs.

The GAIN model has already been implemented at four hospitals in the LHIN and seven additional communities.

HHHS will be hosting a special event in January to share news and more details about the model.

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# Feral cat problem widespread

from page 1

attached to the theatre.

Others live in a handful of colonies spread throughout the property. Each has an indoor and enclosed outdoor area and felines roam as they please.

"This was supposed to be storage," Stata, now outside, says, pointing to a second-storey window.

Cut out of the wall is a small door that gives way to a wooden ramp, enclosed by a canopy of wiring, which leads down to ground level. In other enclosures, skyways lead to jungle-gym type facilities. Stata's cats have become a sort of sideshow at the theatre, popular with moviegoers.

And the word is out.

While some cats have found their way to Stata through phone calls, others have simply been dumped at his place.

Out amongst some large storage containers to the rear of the theatre is a pen where the most feral of Stata's cats are housed. Currently there are four, but, sensing humans, they remain in their crates.

"It's genetic," Stata says, explaining that while wild cats with a domesticated background can be coaxed back into co-existence with humans, truly feral cats are likely to stay that way.

Once a year, Stata has a vet visit his place and the cats get shots and a checkup. This care, combined with food and other expenses, adds up to a pretty substantial total.

While Stata doesn't want an exact figure published, suffice to say it's many thousands of dollars per year.

Stata says he's done taking in cats, that one day he'll "pop off" and by the time he does, he hopes his pets will have also met their maker.

After all, who would look after them?

The problem of stray and feral cats, which Stata stresses is widespread, should not fall to animal-lovers, he says.

Rather, local governments should have bylaws in place to deal with the issue.

"The City [of Kawartha Lakes] and the County [of Haliburton] need to get involved to trap, spay and neuter," Stata says.

He points to other municipalities that have mandatory pet licensing and use those proceeds for trapping, spaying and neutering, and others where letting your pets roam off your property results in a fine being built right into your property taxes.

"You need penalties and you need to collect it, period," he says.

Stata thinks townships should go a step further, though, evaluating and licensing pet owners themselves.

"License yourself to have a pet," he says. "It's not a right to have a pet anymore. It's too expensive."

While the City of Kawartha Lakes has bylaws dealing with dogs, it has none listed for dealing with cats.

Pet control does not fall under the auspices of the upper tier of Haliburton County, but to its four lower-tier townships.

“

**It's not a right to have a pet anymore. It's too expensive.**

— Keith Stata  
Kinmount resident  
and cat advocate



Keith Stata outside the pen that houses the most feral of the 27 cats he's adopted at his Kinmount home. Stata wants local municipalities to take action on the problem of stray cats.

Sonya Holliday-Rhodes with a formerly feral friend. Holliday-Rhodes has started the program Cat Angels, which has built a shelter for stray cats in Minden.



One of Keith Stata's 27 cats. Stata spends thousands of dollars on food and vet bills looking after the animals, some of which were dropped off at his theatre.

In Minden Hills, there is a bylaw dealing with dogs, but none for other animals.

"Any pets, be it cats, dogs, horses, pigs, etc., where someone is questioning their wellbeing, are to be directed to the OSPCA," an email from the township's bylaw department read.

There are definitely stray cats in Minden.

Sonya Holliday-Rhodes has been feeding the members of two cat colonies in the village for the past three years. One colony is located near IGA Road, the other downtown.

"Three years ago I was behind the CIBC and I saw a cat walk across my path," Holliday-Rhodes says. "It was literally dragging itself . . . it was just bone. The next time I saw it, I noticed there were cats all over the place. There is a problem with them breeding."

The weather controls the population, somewhat.

"We lose some in the winter," she says. "Especially in the winter."

During the past few months, Holliday-Rhodes and like-minded friends have formed a group they call Cat Angels. The group has built a shelter and is in the process of trapping, spaying and neutering the cats and transferring them to their new home.

Holliday-Rhodes did not wish to reveal the location of the shelter, for fear people would begin simply dumping animals there.

She says there is room for about 20 cats at the shelter, which has been divided into two halves – one for each colony. The goal is to rehabilitate the cats and adopt them out to loving homes.

"If they're treated well and get used to human contact, they can be salvaged," she says, petting her own once-feral friend. "You can stroke her . . . she's a beautiful cat."



Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton outside the shipping container his township converted to a cat shelter.

Photos by Chad Ingram

But helping the felines is expensive.

Even at a discounted rate, spaying and neutering is about \$170 for females, about \$90 for males.

Then there are the ongoing costs of food.

Anyone who wishes to help can make a donation to Cat Angels by calling Haliburton Veterinary Services and anyone who wishes to volunteer to help look after the animals can call Holliday-Rhodes at 705-286-6379.

"We're probably going to approach the township to request some financial assistance," Holliday-Rhodes says.

There is a municipally funded feral cat shelter in another corner of the county.

Highlands East set up the facility – a heated storage unit located on municipal property near Cardiff – about four years ago. The shelter is set up so cats can come and go as they please and Purina donated skids of food.

"We had a problem with feral cats in the municipality of Highlands East," says Reeve Dave Burton, explaining the township had started spaying and neutering the animals. "I was trying to find some place for them. We thought it was a humane way to deal with the feral cat issue we had."

Costs have varied by year. In 2013, the township spent about \$850 on heating the structure and approximately \$1,500 on trapping, spaying and neutering cats.

For 2014, those figures were approximately \$950 and \$190, respectively. While earlier this year there were as many as four cats living at the shelter, as of Dec. 19 there were no animals at the site.

While there has been some speculation that the isolated location has made cats easy prey for predators, Burton believes that the neutering program, as well as natural attrition over time, has greatly reduced the number of feral cats.

"I think it's worked really well," he says.



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# Keeping bugs at bay

**Chad Ingram**  
Staff reporter

Haliburton County councillors are looking to better educate the public about biological threats posing risk to the county.

At their Dec. 17 meeting, councillors heard a year-end report from forest conservation and bylaw officer James Rogers.

Rogers explained that an April regulation change by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency means that Haliburton County is now part of a large area throughout which materials from areas infested by the emerald ash borer – a destructive, invasive species of insect – can be transported.

Prior to 2014, the CFIA had been restricting the movement of infested materials – namely firewood – into the county.

Monitoring and trapping for the emerald ash borer has been performed throughout the county through a partnership with the U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research and so far has turned up nothing.

“That’s not to say it’s not here, but it hasn’t been detected,” Rogers told council. “It will come.”

The county has erected signage – including some large, roadside signs – advising people about the dangers of transporting firewood from out of the community.

Rogers said seasonal residents transporting firewood to the county from areas south pose a risk of bringing the insect with them.

He said people should be purchasing firewood as locally as possible. Rogers said a certain parasitoid – a small, non-stinging wasp that is a threat to the ash borer – has been released in the province.

Another destructive species to look out for is the Asian long-horned beetle, which leave perfectly round holes, larger than pencil-sized, in the trees they inhabit.

“It looks like somebody drilled a hole,” Rogers said, adding he was looking for a maple tree in a public place where the MNR had offered to create sample holes so the public could recognize them.

“I don’t think the education’s out there to recognize these things,” said Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey, adding ecological destruction could wreak havoc on the community’s economy, by affecting sectors such as the maple syrup industry. “It could be devastating.”

Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt said she thought signs and public information sessions were preaching to the converted and the county needed to find another way of getting the knowledge into the community. “We need to get this information out to the average Joe,” Moffatt said.

Beech bark disease – which can cause beech trees to snap and topple – continues to kill trees throughout the county and Rogers said many property owners have removed beech trees displaying symptoms from their land.

Invasive plant species garlic mustard weed and giant hogweed continue to be a problem, although eradication efforts on the latter seem to have been effective in many parts of the county.

Rogers said the hemlock woolly adelgid – which kills hemlock trees – is also a concern and that white, woolly patches on the underside of twigs are signs of an infestation.



Chad Ingram Staff

County council from left, Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin, Minden Hills Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch, Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt, Dysart et al Deputy-reeve Andrea Roberts, Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey, Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Daniels, Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton and Highlands East Deputy-reeve Suzanne Partridge.

## Fearrey warden for 12th time

**Chad Ingram**  
Staff reporter

Make it an even dozen.

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey will be warden of Haliburton County for 2015.

It will be the 12th time he’s held the post.

Fearrey was elected to the position by his county council colleagues at the inaugural meeting of the new council in Minden on Dec. 16.

County council consists of the reeves and deputy-reeves of the four lower-tier townships. “I’ve always known that when Murray speaks, we know what he’s thinking, and I really admire that,” said Highlands East Deputy-reeve Suzanne Partridge, as she nominated Fearrey.

Her motion was seconded by Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin.

There were no other nominations from the floor.

“It was 40 years ago this week that I first wore this chain,” Fearrey said after being presented with the chain of office by 2014 warden, Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with a lot of dedicated councillors, staff and associates.”

Fearrey said he’d like to start the term off with a special meeting of council to consider a vision for the upcoming term.

“In the year ahead, we will have the same challenge we have every year,” he said, that being balancing the county’s books. The county has an annual budget of approximately \$19 million, about \$13 million of which comes from taxation.

“As we know, the province is not in a good financial position.”

Ontario’s debt sits at approximately \$280 billion and provincial funding has been decreasing for a number of years.

The county’s chief planning document, its official plan, will undergo review in 2015 and the Ontario 55+ Winter Games are coming to the county in February.

“Staff tell us that they have no more room for records,” Fearrey continued, adding that a digitized records system was also on the county’s to-do list.

The new OPP billing formula that will come into effect in 2015 will see the county’s collective policing bill nearly double from \$3.3 to \$6.3 million during the next five years. “You may think it’s gone, but I don’t think we should just drop it,” Fearrey said. County council lobbied hard against the billing framework throughout 2014, to no avail. The political veteran offered special congratulations to Devolin and Dysart et al Deputy-reeve Andrea Roberts, both new additions to county council.

The rest of council is comprised of returning politicians, including Fearrey, Partridge, Burton, Minden Hills Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch, Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt and Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Liz Daniels.

Fearrey served as warden in 2011 and 2012 and had said at the end of that year that he wouldn’t hold the position again.

Fearrey told the paper Tuesday night this term would make it an even dozen.

“I won’t be warden 13 times,” he said.

MPP Laurie Scott attended the ceremony, congratulating councillors and MP Barry Devolin’s executive assistant Jamie Schmale brought greetings from the MP.

Rev. Bev Hicks gave an invocation.

“You have a big ship to steer,” Hicks told councillors, “and there may be some dark and foggy waters ahead. Just let your conscience be your guide.”

County council will hold its first regular meeting of the term Dec. 17 at 9 a.m.

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## points of view

# The Times

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## The top 10

**A**S HAS BECOME a yearly tradition – except for last year when I was unemployed for ideological reasons – here is a list of the 10 biggest stories of the past 12 months for the western half of Haliburton County.

### 10. The Finger

On Canada Day, Minden Hills Reeve Barb Reid is caught on video flipping the bird to a resident she'd later accuse of stalking. The story is shared hundreds upon hundreds of times on social media. Reid apologizes to the community.

### 9. Dorset health hub

The provincial government announces it will fund a health care facility with a nurse practitioner in the hamlet of Dorset. Thousands in the area are without a family doctor.

### 8. EMS base

After years of planning, Haliburton County breaks ground on its new EMS base along Highway 35. The project is to be completed in the upcoming year.

### 7. Electronic voting

After a flip-flop by council, Minden Hills becomes the first township in the county to adopt Internet and telephone voting.

### 6. Barry barricaded

Along with many of his caucus colleagues, MP Barry Devolin is barricaded inside Parliament Hill for hours after a gunman attacks the national capital Oct. 22.

### 5. Wright-Laking resigns

After just a couple of years with the township, Minden Hills CAO/ clerk/economic development officer Nancy Wright-Laking resigns suddenly in June, leaving the township abruptly. The latest in a string of human resources problems, some speculate it is the beginning of the end for Reeve Barb Reid.

### 4. Maple Key Media

Announced on Dec. 16, 2013, an ill-fated merger of Haliburton County's newspapers lasts just four weeks. The papers return to separate ownership.

### 3. MH reeves' race

Councillor Larry Clarke, a former member of Reeve Barb Reid's Vision 2010 Team, announces in May he will challenge Reid for the reeve's position. Clarke withdraws from the race a month later and not long after, Brigitte Gall, another

former member of the slate, jumps into the fray.

### 2. OPP billing

It becomes clear a new police billing formula the province plans to introduce will have severe ramifications for Haliburton County. Local politicians lobby Queen's Park, meeting with ministers and organizing a day of protest on May 1. Efforts prove futile. The county's OPP bill will increase by millions during the next five years.

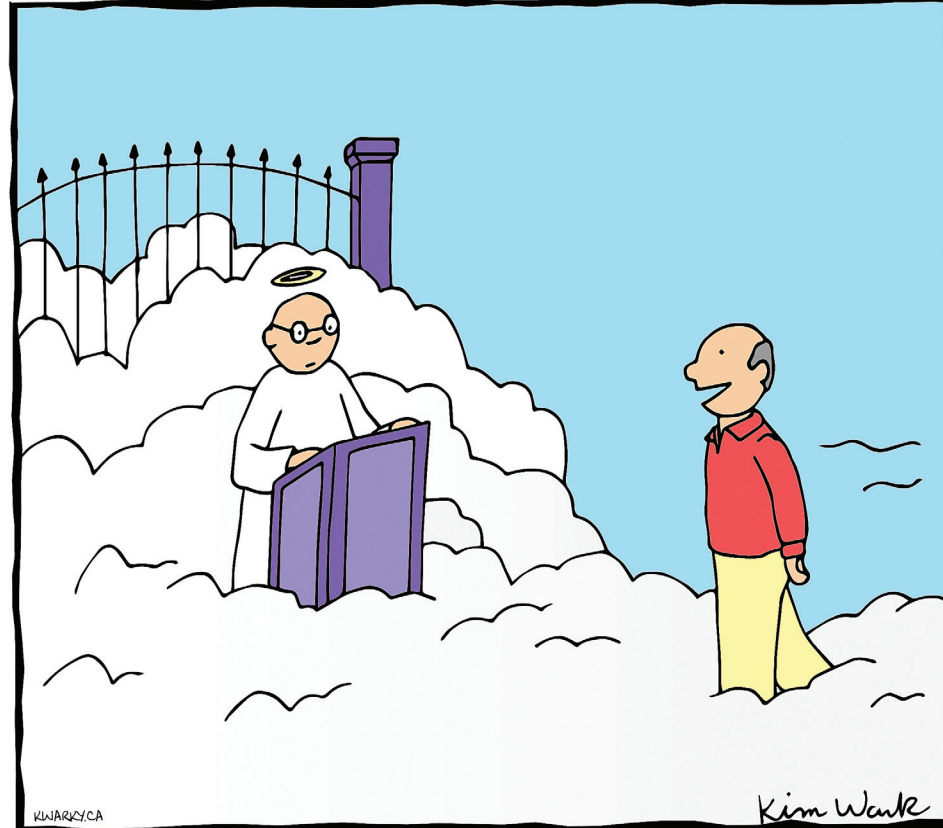
### 1. Devolin

Brent Devolin, having never served on council before, trounces his more experienced competitors in the Oct. 27 election. Both Devolin and Reeve Barb Reid filed nomination papers on Jan. 2, the first possible day to do so.



Chad Ingram  
Reporter

## KWARKY



"IT'S CLOUD HEAVEN: HOME TO ALL NUDE CELEB PICS!"

## Stocking stuffers

**C**HRISTMAS HOLDS many customs that, when you think about them, are kind of strange. For instance, whose idea was it to cut down a tree to bring in the house and decorate? And how did he convince his wife that placing lit candles and strung popcorn on it would be a good idea? I don't know the answer but I do know that guy must have been quite a salesman.

I suppose it could have been worse: we could be hiding our presents in the living room underneath a big rock.

It makes just about as much sense.

The custom that fascinates me most, however, is the one that requires us to hang stockings and fill them with treats and gifts.

Presumably, stockings were first hung by the chimney with care in order to dry them out after they had collected moisture and foot sweat. I figure they also probably got soaked because those who wore them spent the day trudging through the bush to find just the right Christmas tree.

So hanging them to dry makes perfect sense to me.

What doesn't make sense is the next step: deciding to hide Christmas treats in them.

Or maybe it does.

I mean you would have to be pretty desperate to look for treats and gifts in an old smelly sock drying by the fire place. And you would have to be even more desperate to eat those treats – which is probably why they were put there in the first place.

Let's say you had a mouse problem. Obviously you couldn't leave those Christmas treats in the larder. So, in that case, perhaps placing them in wet socks hanging by the fireplace might have

solved the issue. Provided you chose a pair of socks that didn't already smell like blue cheese. If you did, the mice would be twice as happy.

Put that way, the idea seems practical enough – although, to be honest, getting a cat would have made far more sense.

What I don't get is how this became an annual custom.

I mean at what point did someone say, "Look, I know we all had dried foot scales on our figgy pudding last year and little Johnny nearly choked on grandpa's toe nail, but I think, all in all, it worked out fairly well. What do you say we do that every year from here on in?"

That's the moment in history I wish I could travel back in time to witness.

"It's a horrible idea!" one child might have blurted out.

To which his father might have said, "Don't be disrespectful. Santa puts lumps of coal in the stockings of bad kids."

And, at that point, if the kid was truly smart, he would have probably stomped on his father's foot and broke a window.

As with most ideas of this type, I suspect the big decision was made by dad as soon as he wobbled home from the castle staff Christmas party.

And in the morning, as he nursed his aching head, he probably whispered to his wife, "You are kidding right? I decided we'd make putting stuff in a sock a tradition?"

"Yes," she'd say loudly as she shook her head.

From there on in, he was locked into the idea, if only to save face in front of the children.

Again, it could have been worse. He could have said underwear.



Steve Galea  
Beyond 35



# points of view

## O Night Divine!

FRESH-FALLEN SNOW protested beneath the crush of my gumboots breaking trail down the unploughed lane. Dry, sharp squeaks, not unlike the cries of cheap chalk cruelly scrapped against too clean a blackboard.

Skuur-eek, skuur-eek.

The boots ignored the sounds. They moved on, ribbed rubber bottoms and laced high leather tops creating a meandering wake in the ankle deep snow. From each side of the trail, drifted snow leaned tiredly against the backsides of the bungalows, dropped there to rest by an impatient blizzard just passed through. Their crests were indistinguishable against the white stucco walls but nearly reached tufted piles of fluffy snow clinging nervously to windowsills and eaves trough lips.

The squeaks flew through the still night air, dodging fat flakes that fell heavy and straight onto my cap bill, but occasionally splashing into my face flushed warm from the walk. I could have rode back home from Christmas Eve Mass with the family, but the teenage mind always prefers independence, and it was a chance to visit friends along the way.

Faint strains of music joined the squeaking as I approached our back fence. I stopped to hear the music more clearly, now identifiable as singing voices escaping through an open window. I shuffled forward and listened to the notes float out

crisply and clearly, then mingle with smoke rising from the chimneys. Notes and smoke rose together into an icy sky illuminated by frost crystals set shimmering by thousands of stars and the frosty moon the Ojibwe called *Minidoo Geezis*, the little spirit moon that appears small and cold early in winter.

I held my breath to hear better and determined that the music was *O Holy Night*, and the notes came from the window in my grandmother's

room. It was open to the cold because most people smoked cigarettes back then and at gatherings cracked a window to thin the smoke. They sang the first verse, and, when they reached the sixth line, the other voices ceased and one voice carried on alone:

"Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O Niiii ... iight Diii...vine! ..." That's the part where the notes rise higher and higher until the singer reaches an awesome note.

The solo voice belonged to my grandmother, and I knew she was hitting that high note while sitting on the edge of the bed that crippling rheumatoid arthritis had made her prison for 16 years. She was unable to walk without assistance and had trouble holding a cigarette between her gnarled fingers.

The others had stopped singing to listen to her. The second time she hit the high notes at the words *O Night Divine*, a shiver danced on my spine.

When she finished singing *O Holy Night*, the other voices started up again, this time with *Silent Night* and other favourite carols. I went into the house and found Christmas Eve celebrants — my mom, dad, and some neighbours — crowded into the 10-by-10 bedroom that was my grandmother's world. They sang long into the night, mostly in French because the neighbours were the Gauthiers who seldom spoke English to my grandmother and my mother.

After the singing ended my mother served tourtière, which I slathered with mustard. Then we gathered at the tree and opened our gifts. I have long forgotten what I got, and it doesn't matter, because my real gift came many years later: the gift of realization that those high notes were not solely the products of the lungs. They were driven by something stronger than flesh — an unbreakable spirit. They came from strength far beyond anything that a mere body can produce.

(This column was adapted from my book *Waking Nanabijou: Uncovering a Secret Past* – Dundurn Group 2007)

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Blogs: <http://onshamansrock.blogspot.ca/>

Email your letter to the editor to:  
[jenn@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:jenn@haliburtonpress.com)

### letters to the editor

## Unsung hero in Gelert Road crash

### To The Editor,

Chris Dobbins, the Minden Hills FD, EMS and OPP all deserve a pat on the back for the rescue of Mrs. Bhaga and her son on Dec. 13. But I want to tell you there was another Good Samaritan who has gone unmentioned. While waiting for my best friend to arrive to provide me some help I wondered why he was running so late. When he finally arrived he told he had been helping in a situation that was far more important than mine.

Frank was the second person to arrive on the scene of this terrible accident and he and Mr. Dobbins worked together to secure the partially submerged vehicle with the winch from Chris's truck and along with Frank's

quick thinking actions to use his ATV ramps to make a makeshift bridge out to the vehicle to try and free Mrs. Bhaga to avoid causing any more weight on the vehicle contributed significantly to the successful outcome of this incident as well. F

Frank left the scene quietly after assisting the EMS crews extricate Mrs. Bhaga and get her into the waiting ambulance. Frank didn't think what he did was a big deal but I feel it's important to recognize Frank Goard as well for the significant role he played in the happy ending of this incident.

Neil Graham  
Minden

## Thank you for Calling All Angels

### To the Editor,

*Calling All Angels* is a song penned by Canadian songwriter Jane Siberry. It was featured in the movie *Pay it Forward*. Incidentally Jane is the great granddaughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Hobden) Pritchard of Minden (and Stanhope).

We used Jane's title as the theme of our Christmas pageant at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Minden. The event which took place on Dec. 6 was called Calling All Angels and I coordinated it with the help of a cadre of supporters and volunteers.

My love of the Christmas Spirit and the theatrical aspects which go along with it started at an early age. When I was a high school kid (with delusions of Cecil B. De Mille grandeur) I orchestrated a nativity pageant for Zion United Church in Carnarvon. There were lots of youthful shepherds wearing old bathrobes and Magi dressed in felt robes with tinsel trim (Bob Chambers was one) with tin foil crowns. The stable setting, which my dad and I built, was made out of some cedar rails from our old farmstead. Fast forward 50 years . . . Yikes.

Since my early Carnarvon years I have had the good fortune to design special events and seasonal decor pretty much worldwide. During these more recent years I have often visited the world famous Radio City Music Hall in New York to see the quintessential nativity pageant. The Rockettes, are always dazzling, resplendent in their costumed synchronicity, and the special effects folks continually amaze the thousands of holiday shoppers that go to the shows.

The miracle of the Christmas story is portrayed using dozens of angels, shepherds, a few live sheep, and regal Magi complete with real camels. It's a truly majestic and awe-inspiring production, which you should definitely see if you get the opportunity. The Radio City Music Hall employs a full symphonic orchestra and choir for the Christmas show, not to mention one of the world's largest pipe organs. Those guys sure pull out all the stops. An interesting aspect of the yearly event is the name of the show. In that big melting pot of nationalities and beliefs they unabashedly have stuck to the

original title "The CHRISTMAS Spectacular."

From the Big Apple to Minden is a sizeable idea stretch to say the least, but from my standpoint, ideas are the easy part. Getting ideas to the happening stage is much trickier, whether you're on one of the world's biggest stages or on a tiny one. So a great big *thank you* goes out from me to all those who helped to make "Calling All Angels" a reality at St. Paul's.

From the original steering committee I'd like to thank Wendy Ladurantaye (my Co - "conspirator"), Pat Campbell, Sylvia and George Claridge, Linda Davison, and Rev. Joan Cavanaugh, Clark and Deacon Martha Waind to the devoted "doers" of St Paul's Estella Burch, Ed Braithwaite, Anne Campbell, Alan Clark, Freda Colman, Nancy Cummins, Norma Douglas, Daisy Downs, Jean Dutka, Mike Legge, Audrey Heywood, Rozanne Hynard, Johanna Jeorg, Ila Kellet, Kay Millard, Tom and Gayle Nicholson, Linda Ross, Dick Schell, Betty Sharpe, Marjorie and Lionel Willis, and Wendy and Barry Connelly.

Special kudos go to Bill Gliddon the Magical Maestro and the joint choirs and soloists of St. George's and St. Paul's; (many rehearsals were needed) and to Jesse Stewart for additional alternative' music; and a personal thanks to Rev. Milton and Shirley Barry for adding their voices to the Readings. We also took the show on the road to St. George's on Dec. 13.

Supporters of our endeavours, our business friends; Diane Dollo and Foodland, Shawn Chamberlin of the Dominion Hotel, and Shawn Laven of Ommmh Beauty Boutique need also to be recognized for their help.

So what do we do for an encore next year?

Don't know yet, but look out Minden and the Haliburton Highlands, "you ain't seen nuttin' yet."

Sinclair Russell  
Minden

## Sidewalks sloped: 100 per cent true

### To the Editor,

Two cracks at Dominion, three cracks between Stedman's and book store of thin and not levelled sidewalks. That is not good for anyone's health, from head to toe. Many people have said that, not only five health workers. Another thing to mention is the sidewalk at CIBC is sloped and last year two people fell there. People are

blaming the CIBC, but it is the township's job to fix. 100 per cent true. Winter salt is poison. When it gets inside of your boots/shoes and touches your skin, it is like a poison. 100 per cent true. It will make your feet wet.

Simone Harrison  
Minden

Email your letter  
to the Editor to  
[jenn@haliburtonpress.com](mailto:jenn@haliburtonpress.com)



Girls back from the Port Carling competition on Dec. 5 and 6: Shae MacNaull, Larissa Stephenson, River Christiano, Skye Miscio, Alexius Mills, and Ruthie Parker.

MacNaull won Sr. Bronze Elements (gold medal) and was sixth in her Sr. Bronze freeskate. Christiano was sixth in Interpretive, and got silver on her solo (stage 3). Christiano and Miscio came fourth in stage 3 team elements. Alexius got gold in stage 5 elements, and silver on her stage 3 program and she and Parker got gold medals in Stage 2 team elements. Parker got gold in her solo – stage 2. Stephenson got sixth in her interpretive and third in stage 4 solo (medal) Miscio got bronze on her stage 3 solo. Photo submitted



# Wet weather caused citrus sale cancellation

from page 1

She said the citrus fruit supplier called her about the shipment of grapefruit and oranges cancellation on Friday, Dec. 12, referring to the wet weather proving to be challenging to the crop.

Subsequently, she and her students who had collected money for the fruit contacted all the customers to tell them of the cancellation and to return money.

The outpouring of generosity started when the Festival of Singers president Beth Kipping, who is conducted by Stephens, heard about the unfortunate set of circumstances. Kipping and the singers stepped forward with their donation.

She put a challenge out to the community and got the ball rolling, motivating other organizations and people.

Without the fundraiser, Stephens said, she wasn't sure how they were going to happen. Running an alternative fundraiser wasn't likely because Stephens's contact with the students this coming semester was going to be diminished because of class schedules.

This year the Jazz Ensemble or the Grade 9 band will be able to go to the music festival in Bancroft if they want to.

Stephens couldn't emphasize the importance of music to people enough for focus and learning.

"It's all about helping the kids be better learners. Not just in music, but it makes them a better learner with everything," she said.

She implores people to see <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-playing-an-instrument-benefits-your-brain-anita-collins> for information about the affect of music on the brain.

For some of the band members, she said, they don't get the opportunity to play on a team sport, but when the band can play something well as a unit there is an amazing sense of achievement that is great for the students' self-esteem.

Stephens, as of Friday, said the list of donors continues to grow, but currently includes the Highlands Festival Singers, Highlands Chamber Orchestra, Highlands Summer Festival, Highlands Opera Studio, Highlands Little Theatre, The Highlands Male Chorus, Haliburton County Folk Society, the Haliburton District Lions Club, Outloud Womyns Voices, Highlands Wind Symphony, ulnnovate Inc. (Jim and Linda Love), who said he'd match any donation up to \$350 just before the HHSS Holiday Concert, and several individual donors.

David Mills, a member with the Haliburton District Lions Club and president of the Highlands Male Chorus, said the clubs donated \$100 each to show its support for the next generation.

"We donate to kids and we support all of our local schools. That was one way we could support the high school," he said.

For donations please contact Stephens at [melissa.stephens@tldsb.on.ca](mailto:melissa.stephens@tldsb.on.ca), which she can access through her mobile devices.

## Believe in the Magic of Giving!

As of December 17th,  
The Believe In the Magic of Giving campaign  
has raised **\$47,425** for the  
Haliburton Highlands Palliative Centre.

Thank you to the following generous businesses, groups and individuals:

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The following donors wished to make their donation to honour and celebrate the life of someone special.

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Missing from photo, Debbie Comer, Andrea Hillo, Laura Chowzun and Dawn Poissant.

*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
from all of us at the  
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**HHSS Christmas Fun**

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's (HHSS) Grade 9 band uses boom whackers to perform *Jingle Bells* at the HHSS Holiday Concert at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. The annual event before the holidays included a vocal ensemble, the jazz ensemble, the Grade 9 band and a band of Grade 10s, 11s and 12s. It ended with everyone performing *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*.



The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's (HHSS) band members perform at the HHSS Holiday Concert at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. The annual event before the holidays included a vocal ensemble, the jazz ensemble, the Grade 9 band and a band of Grade 10s, 11s and 12s. It ended with everyone performing *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*.

Photos by Darren Lum

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# Koehler set for podium finish at worlds

**Darren Lum**  
Staff reporter

The third time could be the charm for local skier Karen Koehler, who will be one of three Canadians to compete at the International Federation for Sleddog Sports (IFSS) World Championships in Germany this coming February.

This is the third time the Archie Stouffer Elementary School teacher will compete in the world championships. Her best finish is a fifth and sixth at the IFSS 2013 world championships in Alaska.

Those experiences and her recent podium finishes at the Bristol Dryland Canadian Championship Dog Race in November are giving her reason to be optimistic for a podium finish at the upcoming worlds.

"This time I could medal. The problem is when you go back to Europe it is so competitive you have a ton of people in that first minute. You could be first or you could be 10th," she said, referring to the likelihood of

downhill ski race time differences of tenths and hundredths of seconds.

Her silver medal in the one-dog (scooter) bikejoring event with Oodle and a third in the canicross with Bundle (both open to men and women) at the Bristol Dryland is important to gauge her fitness and that of her dogs. That second place she earned is a first among women, she points out.

"Considering the competition I was super, super happy. A lot of people were pretty impressed with that," she said.

There was a large field of competitors, who were using the Canadian event to qualify for the worlds, making her achievement all that more valuable since positions were decided by seconds.

The cooler temperatures this past summer allowed her to train with her dogs more so than other years, which is beneficial in preparing the muscles necessary for her dogs to compete.

This past off-season Koehler was also quite active for her in competing in various running and adventure races.

"All of that was to make sure I was fit as possible when I'm running with the dogs,"



Karen Koehler, who holds her dogs Oodle and Bundle, is set to compete for a podium finish at the IFSS 2015 World Championships in Germany this coming February. The Archie Stouffer Elementary School teacher is a skier who will compete in the one-dog combined and skier events. She is one of three Canadians who will compete. **Darren Lum**



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dwalker@hhhs.on.ca

she said.

She will travel with her husband Rob Sargent and her two dogs, Oodle and Bundle. They will visit family in Germany and be camping in a tent.

Koehler, who will be joined by Canadian competitors Susannah Kelly and Kati Dagenais for dogsledding in Germany, will compete in the one-dog combined (polk and skijoring) with Bundle and the one-dog skijor event with Oodle the first two days of the 10 day event.

She will be joined in Germany Koehler is grateful to her sponsors such as the Minden Mercantile and Feed Co. Inc., Highland Chiropractic and Wellness Centre, Sharpley Source for Sports in Haliburton, Stedmans V&S Department Store in Minden, Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, Buckslide Dog Treats, Chidiac Animal Hospital and Chocpaw Expeditions.

The world of sled dogs might be coming to Haliburton County in 2017.

Unable to stay for more than a few days in Germany due to scheduling for work and finances, Koehler has hopes to change that if she can bring the worlds to her backyard with successful bid to the IFSS.

The director of the recently formed Canadian Association of Harness Dog Sports (formerly Mushing Canada) didn't want to let the opportunity to host a world championships pass without trying.

While mountain biking at the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve a few months ago, Koehler thought the forest would be the ideal spot for the world championships with ample parking, facilities and pre-existing trails.

After a meeting with the forest owner, Peter Schleifenbaum, she was given a vote of confidence. He told her all the events could be held on his property, including the distance (240 km race) class.

This event, she said, is great for our area, but also will have the benefit of being centrally located for competitors, who can come from Canada and the U.S., including Europe, as we're not far from Toronto's Pearson International Airport. She has been in consultation from recently named IFSS race marshal Jim Cunningham.

Koehler imagines a Haliburton County hosted event will draw close to 200 competitors.

She already planned to take 2017 off from work because it was to be an Olympic year. Since South Korea won the Olympic bid her calendar year is open for her to dedicate time to organize the worlds, as the dogsledding community didn't push for their inclusion in the games.

Her bid includes a budget, information on the venue and highlights the capability of the area for volunteer support, as evident by the past senior winter games and the pond hockey championships. The application bid deadline is Dec. 30.

The other venue is Cable, Wisconsin.

Koehler wasn't sure when the IFSS would announce the successful bidder.

She hopes an event like this can raise the interest in skijoring so that one day we can "have skijoring at Glebe for kids. How great will that be?"



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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Minden Hills offers a diversion program through its local waste management program.

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Contact the municipal office for more information on where to properly dispose of these items in Minden Hills.

Household Hazardous waste collection events for 2015 will be held on the Saturday of each long weekend beginning in May and ending in October.

Information on these programs can be found on [www.mindenhills.ca](http://www.mindenhills.ca) or at the municipal office.

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.



# New Year's Eve open house at the Legion



## Legion br. 636

The Minden Legion wishes our members, friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas, and to our community, a happy and prosperous New Year.

The branch is closed on Dec. 25 so everyone can celebrate the reason for the season. As an operation which is run almost entirely by volunteers, we ask your understanding and support over the coming weeks.

We expect the clubroom to be open on Friday, Boxing Day with a volunteer bartender from noon to 2 p.m., but the kitchen will not be open. We know you will be missing our customary Friday fabulous fish and chips lunch and supper, so come on in on Jan. 2 and celebrate the new year in grand style!

The Sunday sports fans will be gathering as usual with a volunteer bartender from 1 to 5 p.m. Because of the holiday printing schedule, I can't tell you how successful their drive was last week. They took the initiative to do a food and toy

drive.

Thank you to all our faithful patrons and members who supported this event.

Monday and Tuesday Dec. 29 and 30 we will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with lunch served from noon to 2 p.m.

New Year's Eve, we will serve a light lunch but there will be no meat draws.

Last week, there was a very successful full house as the Legion held its annual Christmas lunch and meat draw. A turkey dinner with all the fixings was served up for all to enjoy.

The special meat draw provided four lucky winners with a turkey, and four lucky winners with a ham to take home for their holiday feast.

Thanks to Wendy Bolt and Barry Ford for running the meat draw and thanks to Rick and Jenn Wilson, Helen Dentinger and Sharron Atkinson for putting on a delicious meal.

Our regular meat draws will resume again on Wednesday, Jan. 7 starting at noon.

At \$1 per ticket, for just \$8 you can get eight chances

every draw to win one of the butcher-quality cuts of meat. The selection varies every draw and every week.

Thursday, Jan. 1 come celebrate your resolution to support the Minden Legion.

President Judy Flieger extends a warm welcome to the public and all our members to join her 2 to 6 p.m. at the President's Levee Open House.

There will be an Honours and Awards presentation to those members who have completed a significant milestone number of years as a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

If you are one of those members but can't be there on New Year's Day, contact the branch so your pin can be set aside for another date. The lucky winner of the 2015 Early Bird Draw will also be announced at the Levee.

If you haven't renewed your 2014 membership yet, time is running out to maintain your membership in good standing. Renewals are \$50.

For new members, there is an additional one-time processing levy of \$10. We remind members that there is no general membership meeting until March.

Sunday euchre will be held as usual on Jan. 4, starting at 12 noon. \$12 includes 12 games and a lunch.

There will be no Thursday afternoon euchre during January and February. See you in 2015!

[mindentimes.ca](http://mindentimes.ca)

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## Season's Greetings

Due to unforeseen circumstances we at Caygeon Denture Clinic are unable to offer denture services in the New Year from 158 Bobcaygeon Road, Dentistry in the Highlands.

Any future appointments will need to be at 103 Main Street, in Bobcaygeon. Please call Donna for more information and see if you qualify for our 'Distance Credit'. We apologize for any inconvenience this presents.

We at Caygeon Denture Clinic sincerely value and appreciate your patronage and look forward to serving you in the future.

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HALIBURTON COUNTY





## Alumni get air

Above, Red Hawks alumna player Damon Flatman flies to the net in the annual alumni game where the current senior basketball team plays a group of former players. The current team in white hung on to win 33-27 despite a last push by the alumni.

Right, Red Hawks alumna player Andrew Elia, left, makes contact on a drive against current player Travis Carroll in the annual alumni game where the current senior basketball team plays a group of former players. Current player Cody Bain led all scorers with 11 points while alumna Damon Flatman had 10 points to lead his team.

Darren Lum Staff



# Hawks show team effort on draw with Kawartha Thunder

Taking a 2-2 tie into the holidays is as rewarding as a win when it happens against the best team in the Kawartha High School Girls' Hockey League, Red Hawks coach Dan Marsden said.

The Red Hawks girls' hockey team not only played well enough for a draw against the undefeated St. Mary Catholic Secondary School Thunder, but also displayed the championship form on Tuesday, Dec. 16 that earned them a gold at the Canadian Hockey Enterprises American Cup Tournament from Dec. 12 to 14 in Lake Placid, New York.

Marsden said the key to this well-deserved tie at the A.J. LaRue Community Centre arena in Haliburton was because of Lake Placid.

"We started gelling as a team and understanding that it's a team effort, share the puck, move the feet," he said. "I told the girls you've got to move your feet against this club. They have some good players and are a perennial powerhouse that always goes to [the all-provincials] so we've got to be sure we're ready to take them on."

He loved his team's resiliency in being able to battle back from two one-goal deficits.

This was a tight checking game and despite the Thunder's edge in skill the Red Hawks were never out of this game.

Tied at 0-0 and close to midway through the second period, the Thunder's Olivia DiVona took a slapshot past Hawks' goalie Connor Marsden.

At the 9:28 mark of the third, Hawks goalie Marsden kept the game tied when she made a pad save on a low shot taken on a clean breakaway.

A little more than a minute later, the Thunder's Danielle Sawyer scored to give the visitors a lead 2-1.

Undeterred, the Hawks kept pressing, skating hard to the net every chance they had.

With under three minutes, the Hawks defenceman Cameron came into the Thunder zone with speed, stick-handling into the slot and then drawing three defenders to her in the corner where she completed a backhand pass through the legs of a defender to a wide-open Alicia McLean, who was at edge of the crease. McLean got off a shot, but couldn't beat Thunder goalie Mollie Brown. McLean had several scoring chances from her innate ability to find open ice, strong skating and deft stickhandling abilities and finished with an assist.

With just 2:20 left, Hawks winger Kennidal Marsden, who finished with two points (one goal and one assist), struck for the equalizer with a wrist-shot that beat Brown on the

blocker side.

Marsden told his team heading into the game that a tie was the goal and a win a bonus.

"I told them at the start of the game ... we tie this club we beat this club," he said.

For background the Thunder dominated the Fenelon Falls Secondary School Falcons 11-0.

Although there are a few Red Hawks players worthy of accolades, the coach continued to stress how the entire team came through when it needed to.

"On the whole it's the five players on the ice that makes things happen," he said.

He cannot stress the team concept enough, believing in making the extra pass and getting teammates involved.

"I find a wicked assist much better than a pretty goal," he said.

He acknowledges his team may not be most skilled or the best, particularly against AA teams like the Thunder and AAA schools, but he believes his team can outwork anyone.

"We've got a team of grinders, I call them, that work hard," he said. "We'll just work every shift and get some bounces or breaks to keep us in it."

- By Darren Lum

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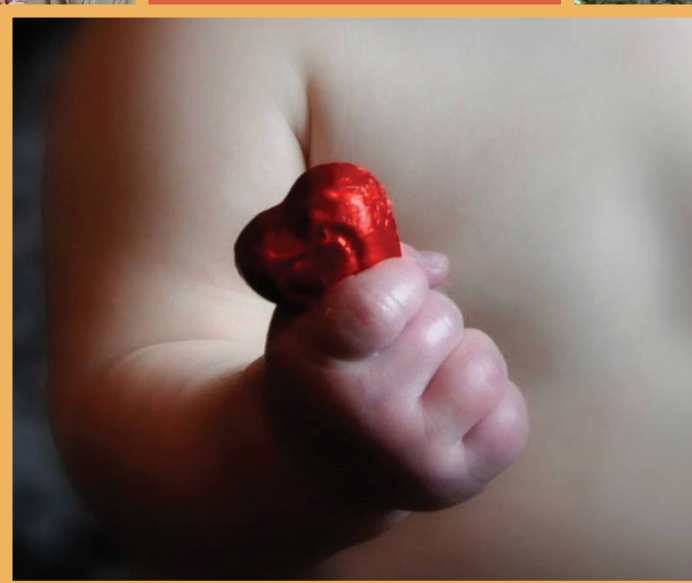
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CHRISTMAS EVE 7AM - 3PM  
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY  
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*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of us!*



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## ASES Celebrates Christmas

Kindergarten students show off their dance moves.

Photos by Chad Ingram



ASES students get festive an annual Christmas show.



ASES kindergarten students treated the audience to some tunes at the school's annual Christmas show. Parents agreed it was adorable.



The gymnasium at Archie Stouffer Elementary School was packed for the school's annual Christmas concert on Dec. 18.



Members of the ASES junior choir perform a Christmas mashup.



Hailey Bull rips some bass clarinet.

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Large selection of used Christmas decorations at ridiculous prices! Shop Thrift Warehouse, 128 Mallard Rd, Haliburton. Open 10am-2pm Christmas Eve. Closed for the Holidays until January 2nd. January 2 & 3-30% off all in store merchandise!!

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**One bedroom apt** for \$ 690.00 or **two bedroom apt** for \$ 790.00.per month. Available Feb 1st 2015. Would prefer Seniors or Working Professionals. Apt is 8 km North of Minden. Phone 705-286-5076 re: viewing.

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**In loving memory of a dear husband Merle Clarke who passed away May 27th, 2011.**

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A million times I've cried.  
If love could have saved you dear,  
You never would have died.  
Things we feel most deeply,  
Are the hardest things to say,  
My dearest...I loved you,  
In a very special way.  
If I could have one lifetime wish,  
One dream that could come true,  
I'd pray to God with all my heart,  
For yesterday and you."

**Lovingly remembered and sadly missed.**  
Your loving wife,  
Nina

### 580 PERSONAL

I wish you a very  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS and  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR,**  
Love from Simone.  
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VITAMINS and DRUGS.  
Praise our lord in Jesus name,  
AMEN

# GREENINGS OF THE SEASON



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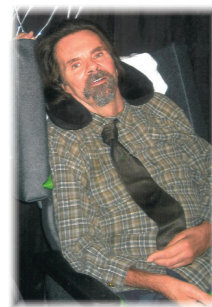
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## 650 OBITUARIES



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Jeffrey Mervin Pinney**

Sadly, died at age 67, but before his time, on Sunday, December 14, 2014, at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens' Home in Minden after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis.

Beloved son of Marjorie T. Wells and the late Marvin V. Pinney, dear brother of Julie Gibson of Toronto and favourite uncle of Christopher J. Gibson of Markham.

Remembered by his many friends as an artist and creative thinker, passionate about the environment, defender of personal freedom and advocate for the marginalized, a unique individual.

According to Jeff's wishes, his body has been cremated. His ashes will be interred at St. Stephen's Cemetery, Boshkung in the spring.

A Celebration of Jeff's Life will be held on January 18, 2015, at 3 pm, at the Dominion Hotel in Minden.

Memorial Donations to Haliburton Highlands Land Trust would be appreciated and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0



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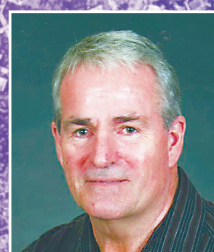
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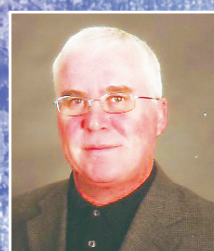
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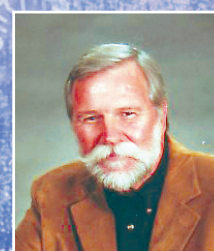
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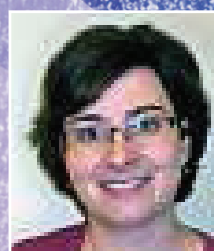
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